

XXI.—*The Cistercian Abbey of Stanley, Wiltshire.* By HAROLD BRAKSPEAR,  
Esq., F.S.A.

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Read 20th June, 1907.

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THE site of the abbey of Stanley is a wide valley two and a half miles east of Chippenham, in Wiltshire. It is upon the south bank of a little river called the Marden, which rises on Calston Down some five miles to the east, and joins the Avon just above Chippenham. Stanley owes its origin to one Drogo, a chamberlain of the Empress Maud, at whose instigation her son Henry, then Earl of Anjou, gave a place called Locwell (now Lockswell) in the manor of Chippenham in perpetual alms to God and St. Mary of Quarr, in the Isle of Wight, for the purpose of there founding a monastery.<sup>a</sup>

From the founder, Drogo, this abbey was called *de Drògonis Fonte* or Drownfont,<sup>b</sup> the second part of the name being derived from the copious springs of pure water which abound on the site, and are used at the present time to supply the inhabitants of Corsham and part of Lacock.

Three years after the foundation of Drownfont, owing apparently to the exposed position of the first settlement, the monks removed to Stanley, a place in the King's Manor of Chippenham.<sup>c</sup> Buildings were begun in stone on the new site, and in 1204 the convent had increased sufficiently to be able to send out

<sup>a</sup> *Monasticon Anglicanum* (London, 1825), v. 563.

<sup>b</sup> In Rev. W. Bowles, *The Parochial History of Bremhill* (London, 1828), 96, is the text of a grant, then in the possession of Edward Baynton, of a pasture near Lacock Bridge by the Empress Maud and her son to the abbey *Sanctæ Mariæ de Drogonis Fonte*, and on p. 95 another grant of a hide of land in Lamburn *Sanctæ Mariæ de Drownfont*.

<sup>c</sup> *Monasticon Anglicanum*, v. 563.

a colony to Ireland to occupy an abbey founded at Graignamanagh.<sup>a</sup> The monks seem to have had difficulty in obtaining a good water supply at Stanley, for in 1214 Thomas Calstone, the abbot, completed an aqueduct from the old supply at Lockswell to his new house.<sup>b</sup>

The early buildings were, like those at the mother house of Quarr, begun to be rebuilt for no apparent reason within fifty years of their foundation. In 1241 the abbot and convent exchanged part of their quarry at Hazlebury, in Box parish, with the canonesses of Lacock for their quarry at the same place which was bought of Henry Crook some years before.<sup>c</sup>

In 1247 the convent entered the new monastery, which doubtless means that the eastern part of the church and the new eastern range of buildings were finished.<sup>d</sup> The church, however, was not ready to be hallowed until 1266, in which year that ceremony was performed by William of Wyle, then bishop of Salisbury.<sup>e</sup>

In 1270, on St. John Baptist's day, the new frater was finished and entered by the convent.<sup>f</sup>

During the fourteenth century some building works were undertaken in connexion with the church, and new cloister alleys were built.

Just before the Suppression some of the abbey was "newe buylded,"<sup>g</sup> though what part is not possible to tell except that it was not any of the claustral buildings.

The abbey was suppressed with the lesser monasteries in 1536, and on the 29th of June the year following the site and part of the possessions were granted to Sir Edward Baynton of Bromham, in consideration of the sum of £1,200, which was paid by instalments.<sup>h</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Leopold Janaschek, *Originum Cisterciensium Tomus I.* (Vindobonæ, 1877), 210.

<sup>b</sup> Bodl. Lib., Digby MS. 11 (vide Bowles' *Bremhill*, 119): Hoc anno (1214) perfectus est aqueductus de Lokeswelle versus abbatiam de Stanley in Wilts a domino Thoma de Colestone abbate ejusdem domus.

<sup>c</sup> *Lacock Cartulary*, f. 30b.

<sup>d</sup> Digby MS. 11, f. 184. (Vide Bowles' *Bremhill*, 120.) 1247. Ingressus est conventus de Stanlegh novum monasterium.

<sup>e</sup> *Ibid.* f. 187. 1266. Dedicata est ecclesia de Stanlegh in Wiltshire a domino Waltero de Wyle tunc Sarum episcopo.

<sup>f</sup> *Ibid.* Eodem anno (1270) intravit conventus de Stanlegh in Wiltes novum refectorium scilicet die beati Johannis Baptiste.

<sup>g</sup> P. R. O. Chantry Certificates, 100, 2.

<sup>h</sup> *Patent Roll 28 Henry VIII.*, part 3, m. 6, *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, of the Reign of Henry VIII.* xii. pt. i. 143.



This Sir Edward Baynton was building at this time a considerable house at Bromham, for which he had license to remove stone from old Corsham House and Devizes Castle.<sup>a</sup> He apparently began, as soon as he got possession, to pull down Stanley for the same purpose.

Aubrey, writing about 1665, says that "here is now left scarce any vestigium of Church or house. *Mem. Old Mr. Ansted. natus. 1588*, told me he was born in this Abbey."<sup>b</sup>

If this memorandum be correct some part of the abbey was converted into a dwelling-house at the Suppression, which is rather borne out by the finding of the head of a dragon, one of the supporters of Henry VIII., in the late excavations on the site of the western range of buildings. This western range may have been converted into a house, as the occurrence of a stout wall across its south end can hardly have been for anything monastic, and in addition the foundations of the outer walls for the great part remain, indicating a different period of demolition from the rest of the building.

From the Bayntons the site descended to Mrs. Starkey of Bromham, upon whose death it was bought by the Marquess of Lansdowne, the present owner.

The position of the principal buildings has always been known, though every vestige of them above ground has long disappeared. A level square marked the site of the cloister, and as the ground sloped down to the river on the north, the church must have been on the south side. On the east side of the cloister were high mounds, on the south the frater was marked by a deep sinking, but on the west the site was fairly level; eastward were further sinkings and mounds marking the position of the infirmary buildings.

At the end of 1905 the Marquess of Lansdowne was approached by the writer through Mr. Herbert Smith, his lordship's agent, with the suggestion that some excavations should be made on the site. This suggestion meeting with approval, and the tenant's consent being readily obtained, four men were at once put at the writer's disposal.

The first week's work being of interest, the excavations were continued, through the liberality of the owner, for some months, until all that remained of the claustral buildings was traced. Trenches were also cut across the site of the infirmary, but with little result. The whole of the buildings, except the western range, had been so rifled for stone at various times that in most cases the main

<sup>a</sup> Leland's *Itinerary* (ed. 1744), ii. 27.

<sup>b</sup> *Wiltshire Collections* (1862), 113, 114.



walls were grubbed up to the veriest foundations, and the lines of many were only marked by sinkings in the ground. For all that the result has been far from fruitless, and has enabled the plan of another Cistercian abbey to be definitely settled as far as possible under the circumstances.

### THE PRECINCT.

The precinct at Stanley was roughly rectangular, with its longest faces to the north and south. (Fig. 1.) It contained about 24 acres,\* and the main buildings around the cloister were placed in the north-west angle. It was surrounded by dykes, which were filled with water by a system of sluices, and though now dry are perfect in all but a part of the west side. The precinct may have been further protected by a wooden stockade on the main bank of the ditches, as no sign of a surrounding wall remains.

A long leat for the water, that filled the ditches on the south and east sides, runs in at the south-west angle of the precinct from the high ground to the south. It is banked on both sides, but that on the west is wider than the other, and had on the top a causeway by which the abbey was approached. On the west side of this causeway was a pond 500 feet from north to south and averaging 130 feet in width, which was also supplied by water from the high ground, and formed the mill pond. The western ditch of the precinct was used as the mill leat and ran from the pond to the river. At slightly more than half-way down this ditch was a small pond, beyond which northward the ditch is destroyed by a farmyard, but shows again immediately to the north of the farm buildings.

The ditch on the north side was supplied by water from the river, which was tapped a little above the precinct. This ditch runs in a straight line to the north-west angle of the precinct, where it joins the western ditch before emptying into the river, and had an overflow to the river opposite the main block of buildings.

In addition to the main ditches there is a wide ditch running from the middle of the east ditch some 500 feet directly towards the claustral buildings, and then turning southwards for over 100 feet. Another ditch joins the last from the south ditch at about 200 feet from the east ditch. An overflow from the middle ditch runs to the north ditch nearly parallel with, and 300 feet from,

\* The area of the precinct at Beaulien was about 58 acres, Fountains 55 acres, and Boxley 23 acres.

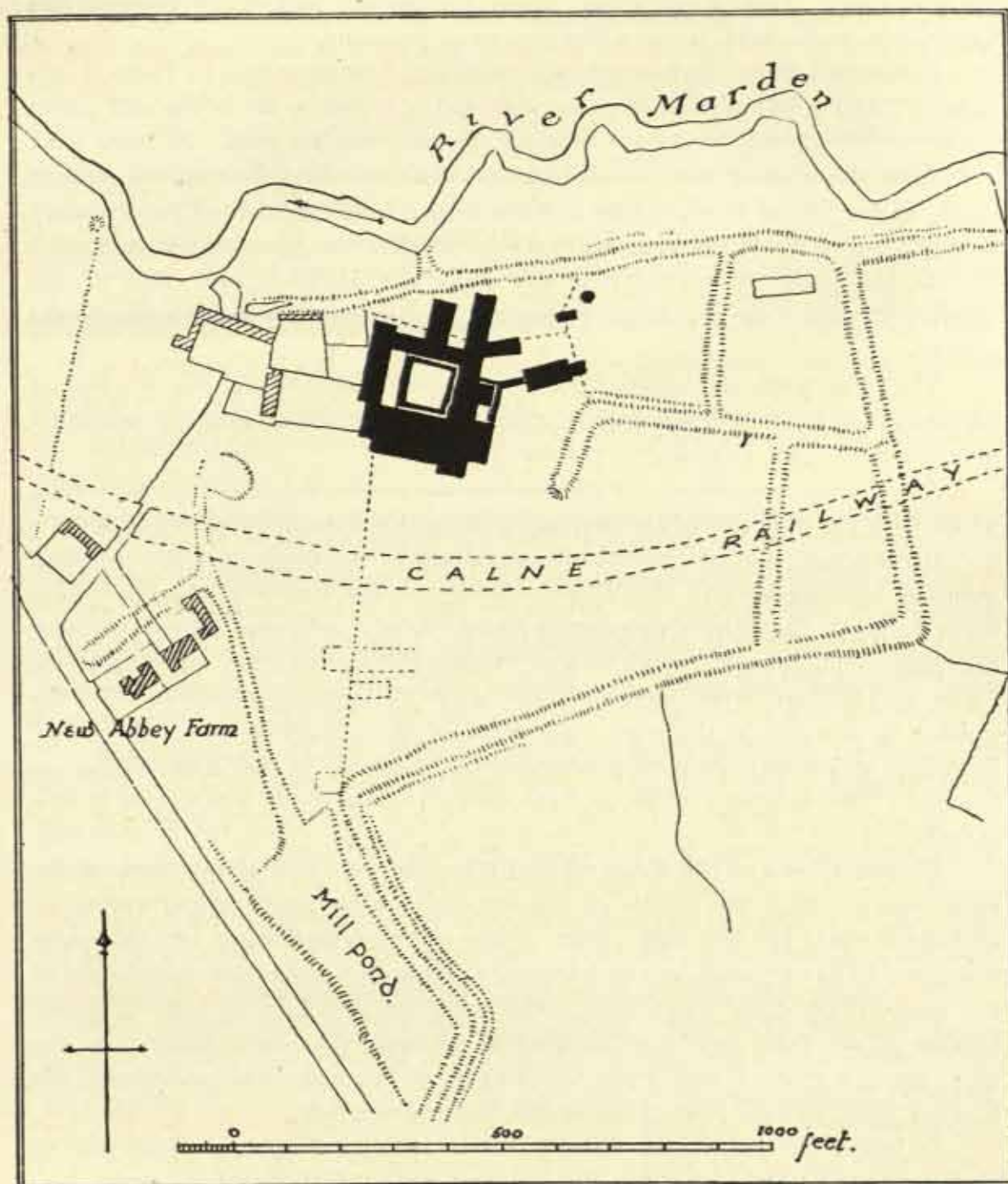


Fig. 1. Stanley Abbey, Wilts. Plan of the Precinct.



the east ditch. These cross ditches divide the eastern part of the precinct into two islands, in the northern of which is a small fish pond.

Besides all these ditches are the remains of another just in front of the present "Abbey Farm," and from its west end is a bank as far as the mill pond; the area thus enclosed may have been for the mill and its yard. Another bank runs from the present road parallel to, and at about 300 feet from, the western ditch, as far as the river, where it stops with a small mound. This boundary is unlike the others in character and may mark a later extension of the precinct.

At the point where the causeway joins the south-western angle of the precinct was the outer gate of the monastery, now marked by irregularities in the ground.

The inner gate was some 200 feet northward, as is shown by a series of depressions and mounds, and had in connexion with it a long range of buildings going in an easterly direction.

A wall ran from the inner gateway to the south-west angle of the church, which with the west side of the precinct enclosed the outer court of the abbey.

On the east side of the outer court towards the north was the principal group of buildings around the cloister. Owing to the slope of the ground from south to north the church was on the south side of the cloister; the dormer over the chapter-house, parlour, and novices' lodging on the east; the warming-house, frater, and kitchen on the north; and the cellarer's building, separated from the cloister by a court, on the west. Eastward of these buildings was the monks' infirmary, which with its garden occupied the space up to the inner ditches on the east. The cemetery seems to have been on the east and south sides of the church.

The main drain of the abbey started from the west end of the ditch, which runs westward from the middle of the east side of the precinct, and was taken northward about 120 feet under some of the infirmary buildings. At this point it appears to have turned at right angles, and passing under the north ends of the claustral buildings, emptied into the north ditch at its west end. The first portion of the drain continued northward, apparently as an overflow, into the north ditch, and was 5 feet in width. No part of the main drain was found, but it is not likely to have been of less width than the overflow.

In 1860 to 1863 the Calne railway was cut through the precinct from west to east, but to the south of the claustral buildings and to the north of the gate-house. There is a report that a number of stone coffins were found, but this cannot be verified. The foundation of one wall shows in the cutting.



## THE CHURCH.

The first church appears to have been of the same plan as Bindon, Cleeve, Calder, Roche, and Buildwas, having a small aisleless presbytery, transepts with two chapels to each divided by solid walls, a nave with aisles, and a low tower over the crossing. As every part of this, except a fragment of the foundations of the north wall of the transept, the walls of the pits beneath the quire stalls and perhaps the foundations of the nave arcade, has gone it is impossible to tell its character.

In the thirteenth century this church was rebuilt or greatly enlarged, and finished sufficiently to be hallowed in 1266. The old nave may have been merely remodelled, but the presbytery was increased to one of three bays with aisles, and the south transept to three bays with two eastern chapels. The north transept, owing to the adjoining claustral buildings, could not be similarly enlarged, and probably contained a considerable part of the original work.

In the fourteenth century the church was further enlarged by the addition of a row of chapels on the south side, beyond the aisle of the nave, but whether these extended as far as the west end there is no evidence to show. The *pulpitum* or quire screen was rebuilt about the same time, and the quire stalls were doubtless altered or renewed.

The presbytery was about 50 feet in length by 31 feet wide. The east wall had gone, but was marked by a sinking in the ground. The foundation of the first pier on the north was found, and in connexion with it was a portion of a screen wall 28 inches thick. This screen filled the second arch, and probably, as at Fountains and Tintern, was continued under the other arches of the presbytery and separated it from the aisles. About 8 feet inside the east end was a solid platform of uncertain extent that marked the site of the high altar, the space behind being used for a vestry, as at Roche, Kirkstall, and other places.

The aisles ended in line with the main east wall as at Rievaulx, Salley, Netley, and Tintern, and had chapels in the easternmost bays. Of the south aisle nothing but the depression of its grubbed-up outer wall remained. Of the north aisle a large piece of the tile flooring was found in position. There were indications of a cross step in line with the first pillar of the arcade, and another 7 feet eastward, leaving a space 10 feet wide for the altar platform. The tiles were set without any reference to their patterns except below the first step, where

the general flooring was of plain yellow and black tiles with a border of two rows of tiles.

The crossing is now marked by the four holes from which the tower piers have been grubbed.

The quire, from the first, was partly under the crossing, and a considerable length of the walls to support the stalls of the first work was found on the north, and a fragment of the inner wall on the south side. The gangway between the two ranks of stalls was  $9\frac{1}{2}$  feet.

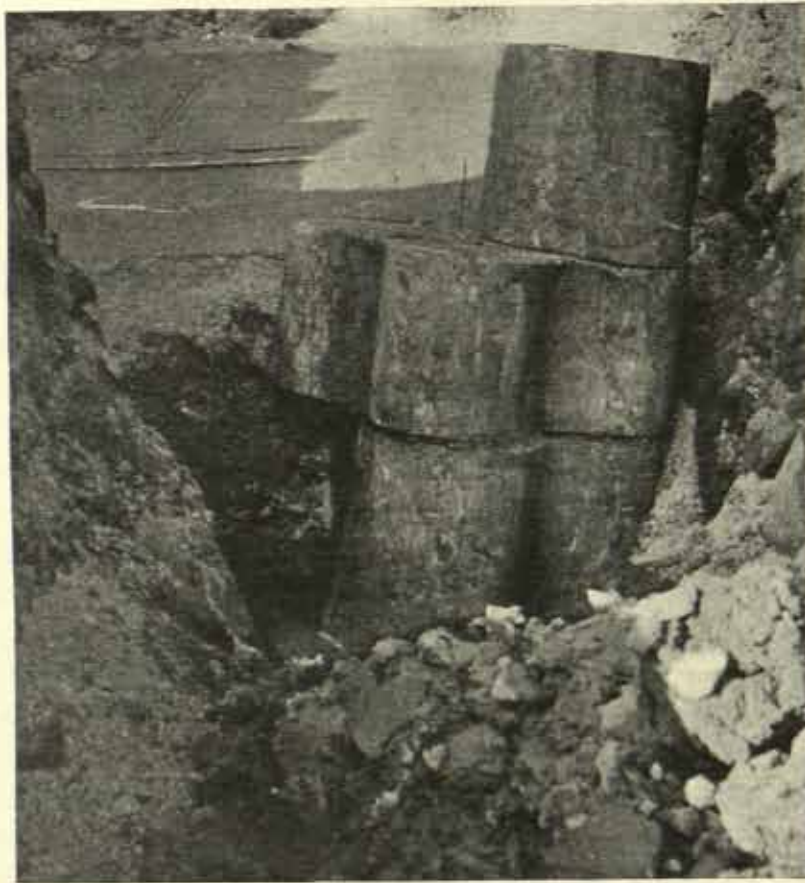


Fig. 2. Sunken pillar in south transept.

The south transept was about 48 feet long by 24 feet wide, and had an arcade of three arches on the east. The first arch, which had a step across it, led into the aisle of the presbytery, and the other two into the chapels, which were also raised a step above the transept floor. The two pillars of the east wall were found sunk



into pits, off their proper beds, and without bases or foundations, indicating that this part of the building had been destroyed wholesale with the use of props and mining the foundations. (Fig. 2.)

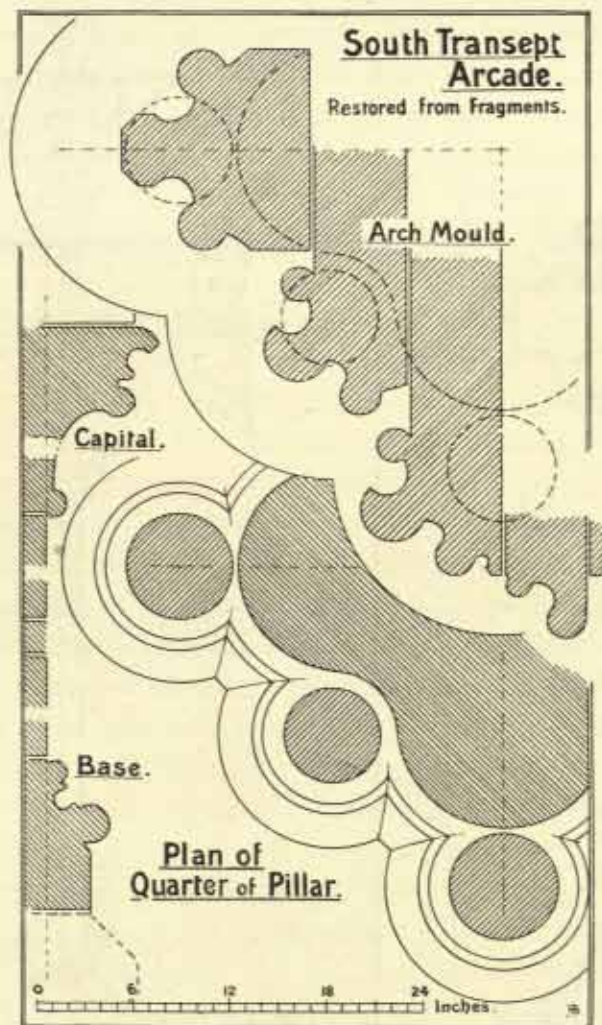


Fig. 3. Architectural details of the south transept.

With the exception of Lewes Priory no other example of this drastic method of destruction of monastic buildings is known, but there the process is minutely described in a letter to Cromwell from Giovanni Portinari,<sup>a</sup> who was employed to

<sup>a</sup> Recently published by Mr. W. H. St. John Hope in the *Sussex Archaeological Society's Collections*, xlix. 76-81, with translations. Mr. Hope has since come across documentary evidence of similar destruction at Barking Abbey, Essex.

raze the great church and infirmary to the ground. At Stanley this transept was apparently the only part so treated, which may possibly be due to the tragic end

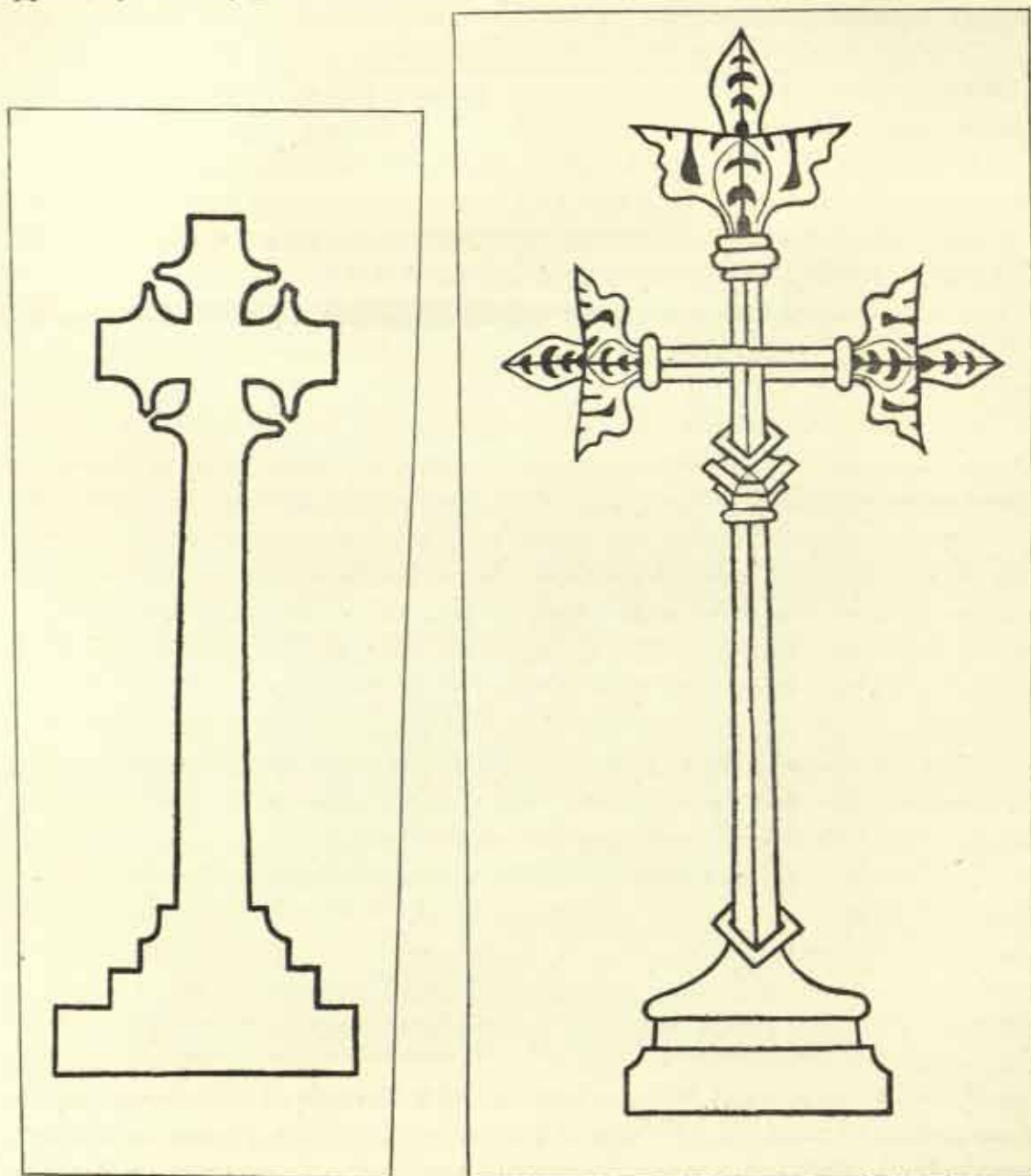


Fig. 4. Incised grave stones found in the south transept. ( $\frac{1}{2}$  linear.)

of one of the workmen, whose skeleton was found beneath the fallen masonry.

The pillars consisted on plan of four half-circles surrounded by eight



detached columns, which were banded, probably at half height, and the capitals were moulded. The arches were of three moulded members and had hood-moulds. (Fig. 3.) Fragments of all these different parts were found as they fell, but not a single vaulting rib was met with, which, judging from the number of these found elsewhere, seems to show that no part of the transept was vaulted.

In front of the middle arch was a large patch of pavement, in which were two grave slabs undisturbed. (Fig. 4.) The southern was 6 feet long by 2 feet 6 inches wide and incised with a simple cusped cross with stepped base. The northern, which was slightly later in date, was  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet long by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  feet wide, and of unusual thickness. It had incised upon it a large cross with foliated ends and a moulded base. On neither slab was any inscription, nor was anything found beneath.

The north transept was the same width as the south but only 43 feet in length. It had two arches on the east leading into the presbytery aisle and a chapel respectively.

The west wall, of which a fragment of the foundation was found, projected into the cloister about 4 feet beyond the line of the eastern range. A great mass of foundation of the north wall, about 10 feet thick, was found with a return footing running southwards. This appeared to belong to the earlier church, as the return footing was eastward of the later line of pillars.

There were to the westward a fragment of tile flooring and the indications of a step to the chapel. In a trench that was cut from this point southward a number of square tiles bearing letters was found. As none other was met with they may have formed an inscription to some monument.

The nave was 130 feet long by 32 feet wide and of eight bays. The arcades were carried on square blocks of foundation of which four were found on the north side and one on the south. A fragment of the west wall also remained. Not a vestige was found of any architectural detail that could have belonged to the main structure of the nave, so that with the fragmentary nature of the foundations it is not possible to say definitely if the thirteenth century rebuilding extended to this part of the church. It should, however, be remembered that the space between the quire stalls is too narrow for them to have co-existed with a nave of the width of that found, and if the usual width of double stalls be added to the interspace it would make the original nave of the same width as the transepts, which it is reasonable to suppose it was in the first place. Between the third and fourth pillars on the north was a grave, over which were found a



number of fine painted fragments of a fifteenth-century tomb that presumably covered it.

Of the north aisle no remains are left save a patch of flooring of plain tiles against the fourth pillar and the foundation of a cross wall at the third pillar. This probably supported a screen to enclose a chapel in the aisle behind the bay with the tomb, which was a usual treatment of nave aisles in late days, as at Fountains, Kirkstall, and Rievaulx.

The south aisle was 11 feet wide, and a mass of foundation of its south and west walls remains at the south-west angle.

In the fourteenth century a new *pulpitum* was built, of which the lower part of the western screen wall is left. It was 34 inches thick, and had a doorway 3 feet 8 inches wide in the middle. This had a stone sill, which remains, and the arch was a pointed segment simply moulded; of this a stone forming one of its sides was found. Eastwards of this wall was a quantity of tile flooring laid very carelessly and partly covering the pits of the earlier quire stalls.

During the first half of the fourteenth century chapels were added on the outside of the south aisle. They were about 20 feet wide and had solid dividing walls. Indications of at least four chapels were found, but they probably extended the entire length of the nave up to the west end, as at Maulbronn in Germany and at Melrose in Scotland, though no similar example has yet been found in England.

In the first and second chapels a fragment of the floor remained. In the third was a large surface of flooring which was formed of tiles 8 inches square. These bore the leopards of England, the chevrons of Clare, and three lions rampant, and were laid in pattern with cross and diagonal bands. This floor extended across the line of the aisle wall, showing that the chapel was connected therewith by a wide arch. The dividing wall between the third and the fourth chapels remained, and in connexion with it in the line of the aisle wall was the eastern base of the respond which carried the arch between the chapel and aisle (fig. 5). The respond was formed of three circular shafts, with beads and hollows between. The base mould of the two rolls followed the line of the pier, but below was octangular and had a small plinth. A portion of the flooring of the fourth chapel remained. The south wall of the church extended some 17 feet beyond the west wall, showing that across the west end was a galilee porch, a not unusual, though by no means an essential, addition to a Cistercian church.



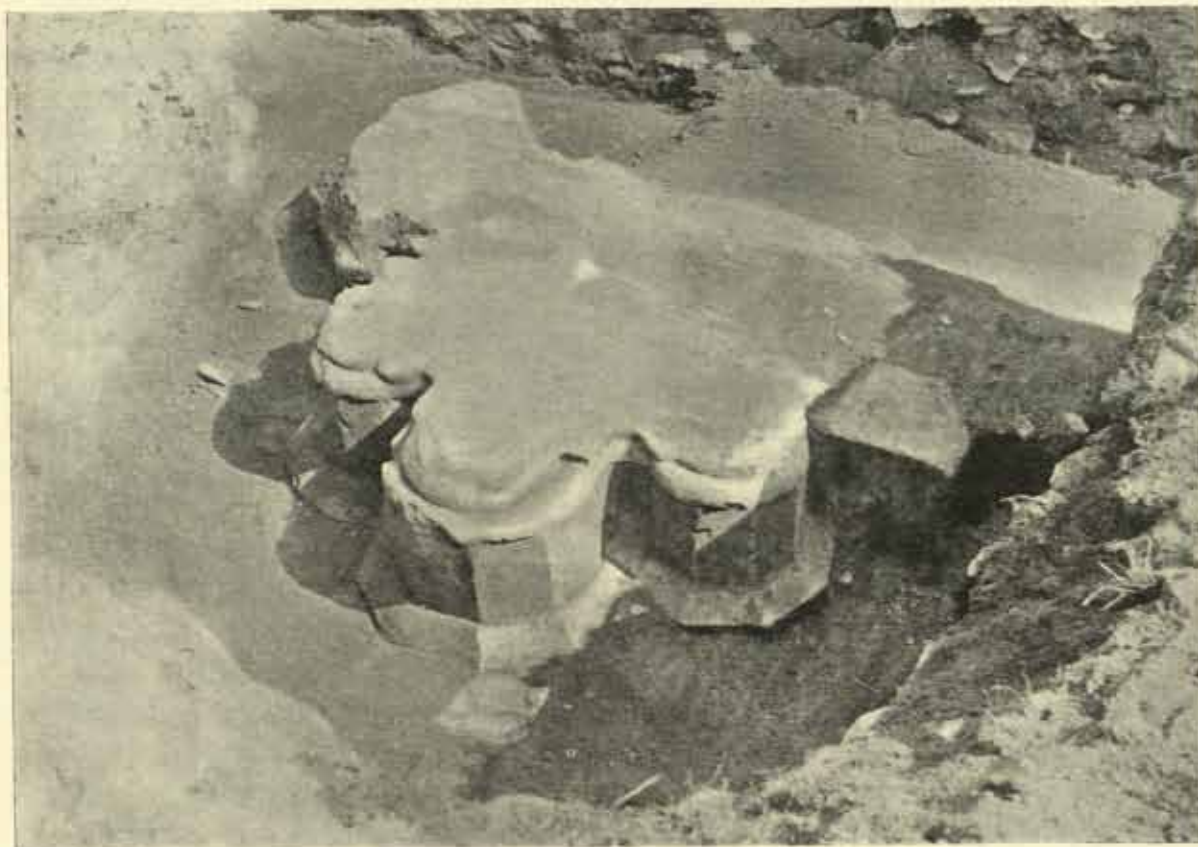
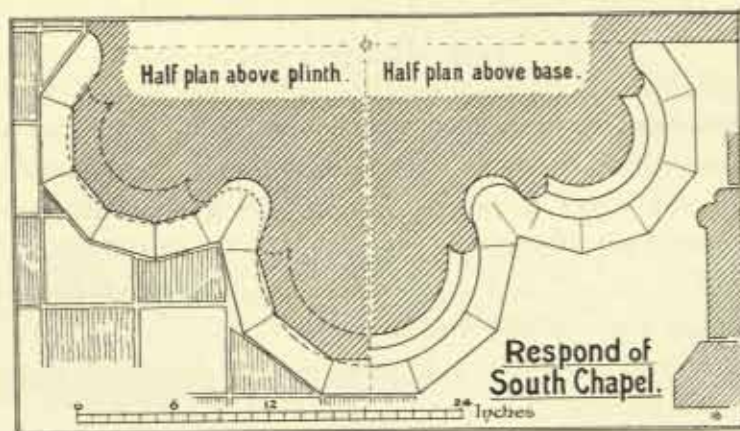


Fig 5. Respond of the south chapel.

## THE CLOISTER.

The *claustrum* or cloister was not quite square, being 105 feet from east to west by about 100 from north to south. It had originally pentise-covered walks on all the four sides, supported towards the court by a series of arches on coupled columns with moulded capitals and bases, of blue lias, which rested on dwarf walls. Fragments of the capitals and bases were found in various parts of the abbey, but chiefly near the *pulpitum*, in which they had been used up as old material. This shows that the cloister was rebuilt in the fourteenth century. The inner walls were about 2 feet thick, and found on all but the south side. They had no buttresses, so the roof must still have been of wood, though what was the character of the walls is impossible to say, as only a few fragments of fourteenth-century mouldings were found. The alleys varied in width from 12 feet on the east to 9 feet on the west, and were all floored with tiles. The flooring of the west alley was found in a very perfect state for over 40 feet, and has been covered by a permanent shed in order to preserve it in position.

## THE VESTRY.

Adjoining the church, on the east side of the cloister, was the vestry; it was 14 feet wide, but its extent eastward is uncertain. In its north wall was a late inserted doorway, of a single member moulded with two ogees, of which the east jamb alone remained, together with part of the stone sill. From the character of the stop beneath the moulding of the jamb it appears to be post-Suppression in date, in which case the amount of the monastery converted into a house was considerable.

## THE CHAPTER-HOUSE.

Next to the vestry was the *capitulum* or chapter-house, which was all of the thirteenth-century rebuilding, and was 60 feet in length by 30 feet in width. It was six bays long, and divided into three aisles, of which the middle was wider than the others, by two rows of columns, and vaulted with cross and diagonal moulded ribs without bosses. The columns were monolithic,  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches in circumference and 6 feet 2 inches in height; they had moulded capitals and bases, and were all



formed of a hard blue lias stone. (Fig. 7.) Each joint was bedded in sheet lead. The moulded base had a freestone block beneath upon which it was bedded on three flat pieces of iron set in hard cement; but in order that the base might not press unevenly on the iron before the cement was set, wooden wedges were inserted on three sides. (Fig. 6.) These were doubtless removed when



Fig. 6. Base from the chapter-house, showing lead and iron packing.

the cement was set, but what was the use of the pieces of iron it is impossible to say. The eastern base of the north side remained as well as the fourth and fifth on the south. At this point the ruin was found as it fell, with one of the columns, though broken in two, and the vaulting it carried.

In the second bay of the middle aisle were three stone coffins, which though retaining fragments of bones had all been disturbed. A portion of the tile floor was found in the middle of the fourth bay.

Round the walls were stone seats, but they do not seem to have been raised on a step in the usual manner, and nothing of them but the rough foundation along part of the south side was found.

## THE PARLOUR.

Next to the chapter-house was the *auditorium* or parlour, which usually had a doorway at either end and formed a passage to the infirmary. At Stanley it was  $27\frac{1}{2}$  feet long by 16 feet wide, and was floored with plain dark and light-coloured tiles, checkerwise. In this chamber were found some chamfered ribs of smaller section than those of the rest of the range, which possibly indicated that it was vaulted into three bays.

## THE NOVICES' LODGING.

Northward of the parlour and extending for some 166 feet was a long sub-vault constructed without a break and divided into twelve bays, with a row of

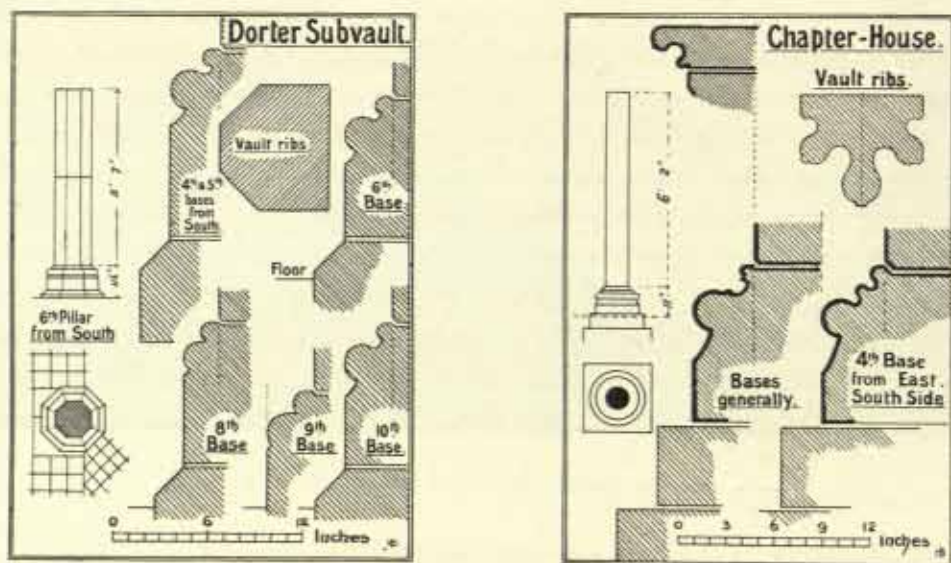


Fig. 7. Architectural details of the chapter-house and dorter subvault.

columns down the middle. The side walls had been grubbed up, except a fragment of that on the east at the ninth bay and the foundation on the west at the eleventh bay. The piece of wall on the east retained its chamfered plinth, and in connexion with it was a fragment of that of the buttress which projected opposite the ninth column.

The middle of the building, except at the north end, was found as it fell; the floors generally were tiled, and the vaulting was of simple chamfered ribs



8 inches wide. The columns down the middle were octagonal on plan,  $13\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter, and 6 feet 6 inches in height above the floor. All the bases were found except the first, tenth, and eleventh; they varied slightly in section. (Fig. 7.)

The base of the eighth column was of one stone with the square angles left on under the base mould, and the column had been set with iron wedges in cement like those of the chapter-house. At the first column was a cross wall; the second was also in a cross wall and was found as it fell; the third was bedded in another cross wall and stood to its full height to the underside of the capital. The fourth column had gone owing to a pit being dug at this point to bury rubbish, but the base remained. The fifth was found as it fell in a south-westerly direction, and round the base was a patch of tile flooring. The sixth had been removed, but the base was found bedded in another cross wall. Of the seventh, eighth, and ninth columns only their bases were left. That of the ninth was also bedded in a cross wall, beyond which all evidence of the range ceased except for the fragments of the west wall already named. It is uncertain if all the cross walls are of monastic date, though there was no direct evidence that any post-Suppression alterations had been made in this part of the building. Unfortunately in all cases the western parts of the cross walls had been grubbed up, so that no remains existed of the doors of communication that must have been there, and which would have indicated the dates of their erection.

The use of these long sub-vaults under Cistercian dorters has never been satisfactorily explained, though Mr. Hope many years ago suggested, as a result of argument by exhaustion, that they were for the use of the novices. At Clairvaux this building was certainly for that purpose in 1517, for in the account of the Queen of Sicily's visit there in that year,\* after having been shown the buildings round the great cloister:

Ce faict, ladicte dame fust menée en logis des novisses.

La novisserie est une grande salle de pierre de taille voulsée, et au bout y a cheminée ou les novisses estudient leur Psaultier et autres choses.

Au costé dextre sont les selles privées sur l'eau.

Conséquement est le dortoir desdicts novisses, voulsé comme ladicte novisserie, où y a plusieurs lits; et au bout la chambre de leur maistre, fête de menuiserie, où il y a une fenestre, par laquel il voit tout ce que font lesdicts novisses.

Après est l'anfermerie desdicts novisses, à laquelle l'on vat par une petite gallerie où il y a une belle fontaine, tirant icelle gallerie d'ung costé ez chambres où l'on met les novisses malades, qui sont du nombre de trois: deux basses et une haulte, et ont

\* Didron, *Annales Archéologiques* (1845), iii. 231.



les retraictz lesdictes chambres bien acoustrées, et à l'autre bout de ladicte gallerie est ung beau jardin pour eulx esbattre, et passe la rivière entre ledict logis et le jardin pour vyder lesdicts retraictz.

As the dorter subvault at Clairvaux was certainly used for the novices, with their infirmary under the great rere-dorter of the monks, it is only reasonable to suppose, considering the uniformity of Cistercian planning and the similar character of these buildings in all cases, that this was the general use.

#### THE DORTER.\*

The *dormitorium* or dorter, the sleeping place of the convent, extended from the transept of the church over the whole of the buildings of the eastern range, and was approached by a flight of steps from the cloister for use by day and had another into the church for the use of those attending the night offices.

At Stanley the dorter must have been no less than 240 feet in length. It was paved down the middle with tiles, some of which were found bedded on the top of the fallen vaulting of the buildings beneath. No indications of either stairway were found; but the day stairs must have been against the west wall, starting from the cloister in the north-east corner, since no break occurred in the sub-vault, as would have been the case if the older arrangement of putting the stairs in the middle of the eastern range had been followed.

#### THE REREDORTER.

On the west side of the range a deep sinking marks the position of the main drain of the abbey, and on the opposite side are sinkings for the walls of the rere-dorter, set slightly out of square with the range, but including the track of the drain along its north side. A small fragment of the north wall was found, but all else had been grubbed up.

#### THE WARMING-HOUSE.

The first building on the side of the cloister opposite the church was the *calefactorium* or warming-house, but not a vestige remains of walls or fireplaces. In the middle of its area was found a small length of drain leading from the direction of the cloister, probably to take the waste water from the lavatory.

\* The old English word "dorter," meaning a sleeping place, was used invariably by mediæval writers. It is derived from the old French *dortour* or *dortoir*, which comes from the Latin *dormitorium*. See *A New English Dictionary*, iii. 607, *Dortour*, *Dorter*.



### THE FRATER.\*

The *refectorium*, or frater, which is the building enumerated next after the *calefactorium* in the direction for the Sunday procession, was the dining hall of the monks. Although at first the Cistercian frater seems to have stood east and west, parallel with the church, as in Benedictine, Cluniac, and Canons' houses, it became the practice about the middle of the twelfth century, for some reason at present unknown, to place it north and south, with its end against the cloister, with the warming-house on the east and the kitchen on the west.

At Stanley the frater of course followed the later arrangement, and was 110 feet long by about 30 feet wide. A small portion of the foundation of the east wall was found as well as the lower part of the northern of the two buttresses at the north-east angle, the rest of the walls being marked by sinkings in the ground. The fragment of the buttress consisted of a deep splayed course resting on a small chamfered plinth with two courses of ashlar beneath. Above the top course was a moulded string course, of which a small fragment was found, though afterwards mislaid.

### THE KITCHEN.

The kitchen in the first place adjoined the frater on the west, but was subsequently altered. As already stated, there was a court, 26 feet wide, to the west of the cloister between it and the western range. This at first was closed at the north end by a wall, in which was a large pointed arch of two members springing at 18 inches above the ground and flanked externally by buttresses with chamfered plinths. Eastward of this, in the original kitchen, was a cupboard 26½ inches wide and 27 inches deep, with its sill only 14 inches above the ground. The jambs remained 23 inches in height, and at 17 inches was a wooden shelf, above which was a front, also of wood, let into slots in the jambs. Eastward of this cupboard was the jamb of a doorway to the kitchen from without.

The kitchen seems to have been altered at the end of the thirteenth century, at which time the wide arch into the court and the doorway just described were walled up. The west side of the first kitchen was pulled down and a new wall forming the east side of the later kitchen was built in its stead. In this wall was

\* The old English word "frater," meaning a dining-hall, is at least as old as the thirteenth century. It has nothing to do with *frater*, a brother, but is derived from the old French *fratur*, which comes from the Latin *refectorium*. See *A New English Dictionary*, iv. 515, *Frater*. The modern word "refectory" was apparently never used before the Suppression.



a fireplace, the hearth of which remained, and was 12 feet wide by 4 feet deep, formed of hard stone set on edge. Northward was a doorway of which the north jamb remained. By this alteration the kitchen, which now was 36 feet from east to west by 25 feet wide, was moved up to the western range, and a new room, on the site of the old kitchen, was formed between it and the frater. This room served partly as a serving place for the frater, and may also have been a scullery or a pastry house.<sup>a</sup> In its north-east angle just inside the door from the kitchen was the support for a water tank, and the lead pipe from it was found leading towards the kitchen.

Under the middle of the floor of the later kitchen was a stone drain 9 inches wide running northward and joining, close against the north wall, another drain running westward. This seemed to form an overflow to yet another drain or waste which was taken through the north wall by an arch  $9\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide with a wooden shutter. On the north side of the kitchen and partly against the western range was a small added chamber 13 feet from east to west by 11 feet wide.

#### THE CELLARER'S BUILDING.

The west side of the cloister was covered by the cellarer's building, a long range occupied by the lay brothers. At Stanley, like Kirkstall, Byland, and Beaulieu, it was divided from the cloister by a court.

This building was 148 feet long by  $29\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, and had been less destroyed than the rest of the work. Its east side was in line with the west end of the church.

It was divided into two apartments, with the entry to the cloister between. This entry was  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet wide, paved with hard stone flags at a higher level than the rest of the range, and was vaulted in two bays with moulded ribs, of which one of the apex stones was found. At either end was a doorway, the eastern of which retained the inner south jamb for two courses, together with the re-entering quoins of the adjoining angle. The north and south walls also remained to the floor level.

Southward of the entry the range was occupied by a cellar 58 feet long, divided into four bays with a row of pillars down the middle, and vaulted with square ribs having narrow chamfers. The bottom course of the northernmost pillar remained in part. It was octagonal, 34 inches across, and had no base.

<sup>a</sup> A similar chamber between the kitchen and frater has recently been found at Tintern.



The foundations only of the other pillars remained. At the south end in line with the pillars was a fragment of a wall 18 inches thick, stopped with a fair end  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the place of the first pillar. The east wall of the cellar remained for almost its whole length, and a fragment of the west wall was also found.

Northward of the entry the range formed a chamber 66 feet long. Of this the inner face of the west wall, a considerable part of the east, and the whole of the north wall remained. It was divided into five bays, with a row of columns down the middle, and vaulted with moulded ribs. The columns were circular, 14 inches in diameter, and the moulded bases of all but the northernmost remained in position. The chamber was roughly paved with tiles. At the second and fourth columns were cross walls, 30 inches thick, but whether of monastic date is uncertain. This chamber was used in the first place as the lay brothers' frater, and was served from the monks' kitchen. Externally the north end of the range had pilaster buttresses at the angles and one in the middle, but all the quoins had been removed. The east wall was unbroken by buttresses of any kind, and the outside of the west wall was so fragmentary that it is impossible to say how it was treated.

#### THE INFIRMARY.

Eastward of the claustral buildings was the monks' infirmary, but of this only a few odd walls were found and nothing definite. The site of the great hall was indicated by the sinkings caused by its removed walls. It was placed east and west, and measured about 118 feet in length by 54 feet in width. The remaining ground from the infirmary up to the first cross ditch was doubtless the infirmary garden, and contained the sinking caused by the removed wall of a circular dovehouse 24 feet in diameter.

#### BUILDING MATERIALS.

The materials used in the building were for the most part found in the near neighbourhood.

The walls were of rubble of hard stone and had freestone dressings. The hard stone is forest marble of a poor quality found near Calne. The freestone was of excellent quality of Bath oolite from Hazelbury in Box parish.

The monks had a quarry there before 1241, from which doubtless the original buildings were supplied, but in that year upon the day of St. John ante Portam



Latinam "Robert Abbot of Stanley, in Wiltshire, and the convent of the same place give to the said convent (of Lacock) one part of their quarry of Haslebury being in length 76 feet and in width that which was theirs, that they may take as much stone from the place in exchange for the other quarry that the convent (of Lacock) bought of Henry Crok." \* The exchange was doubtless due to some convenience of access or division of the lands of the two convents.

The plinths, steps, and wherever else freestone was bedded upon the rubble had the joints packed with pieces of roofing tiles.

The columns, capitals, and bases of the cloister and chapter-house were, instead of the usual Purbeck marble, made from a hard blue lias rock similar to that found at Keynsham. These were bedded with sheets of lead, which were found in connexion with the main pillars of the chapter-house.

The roofs appear to have been covered for the most part with plain flat red tiles holed for round and square pegs, two in each tile. The creasing was of the same material, but glazed, of saddle-back form, and with a scalloped cresting. A few of the ordinary stone tiles of the neighbourhood were found, but in such small quantity as to preclude the possibility of their having been used to any extent.

The floors of the principal buildings, as already noted, were laid with tiles. The chief patterns are illustrated in Plates LV. and LVI., and are of the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. From fragments of similar tiles having been found by Mr. C. H. Talbot, of Lacock Abbey, at Nash Hill, on land formerly belonging to Stanley, where the Romans also had kilns, it is almost certain that these tiles were made there. The tiles are formed of a red clay of an even hardness, though in many cases much distorted by burning. The slip is of a good white clay that has burnt evenly with the tile, but the glaze is very inferior, having burnt generally to a dark yellow colour, and was badly applied. Some of the plain tiles were of a bright green and others were white.

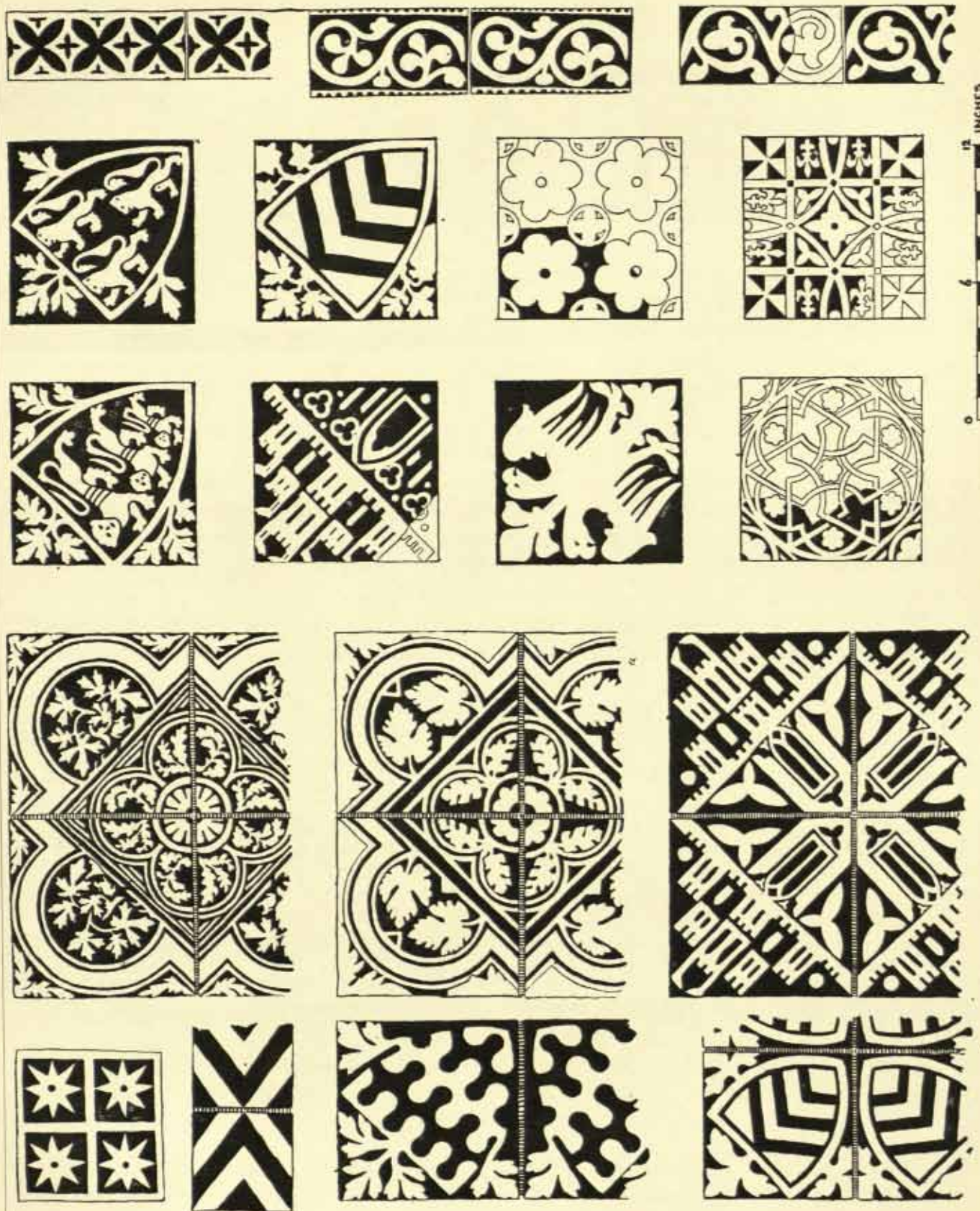
The patterns were mostly of ordinary forms, though the fourteenth-century series of 8-inch tiles is remarkably fine.

#### VARIOUS OBJECTS FOUND.

A few objects in the way of curiosities were found, of which the principal were various fragments of pottery. They occurred in large quantities near the

\* *Lacock Cartulary*, f. 30 b.



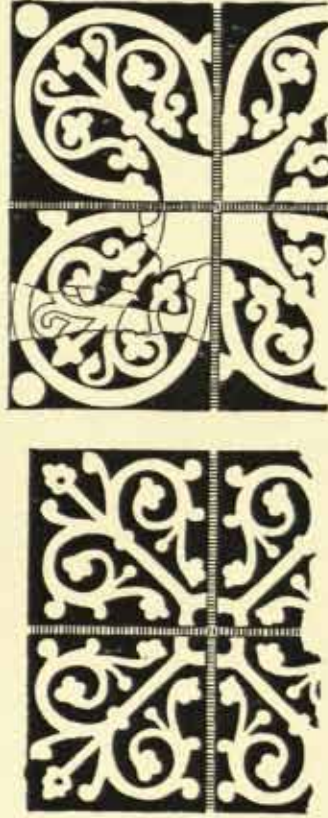
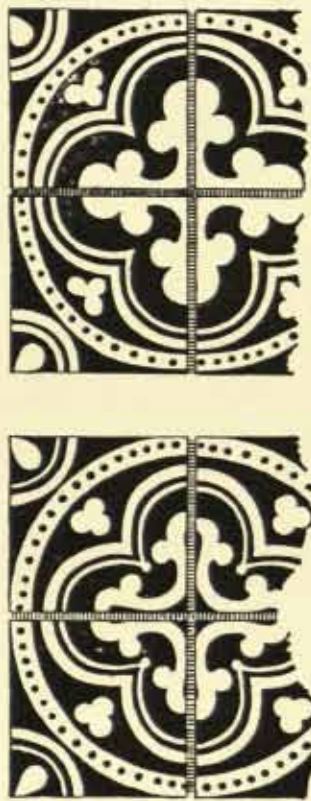


PAVING TILES FOUND AT STANLEY ABBEY, WILTS.

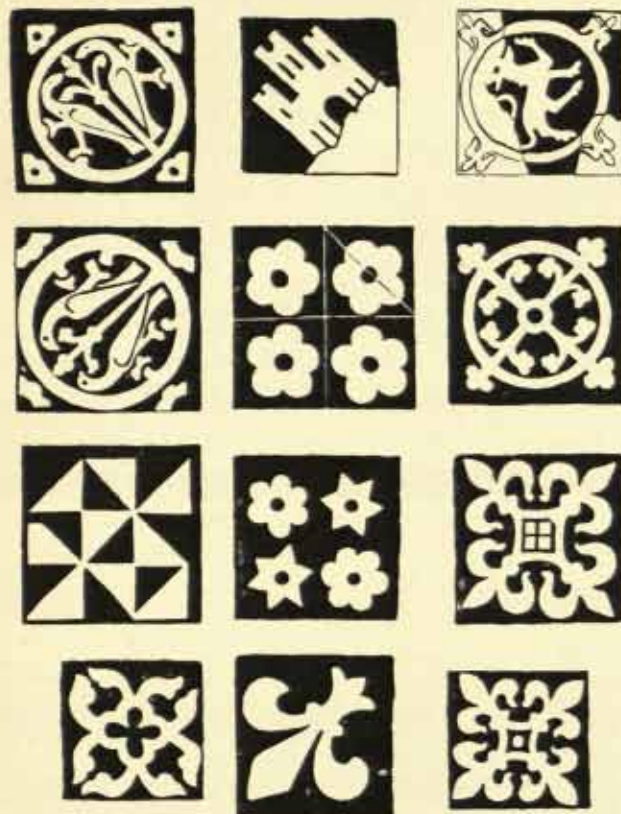
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PAVING TILES FOUND AT STANLEY ABBEY, WILTS.

Published by the Society of Antiquaries of London, 1907.





kitchen, but the pieces were so fragmentary that in no case could anything like a perfect vessel be recovered. The majority of the pieces were of a bright green glazed ware of good character. A couple of pieces of a small jug, found in the kitchen cupboard, were of a thin hard brown ware with good glazing inside and out.

Three fragments of little lead panels of open tracery of fifteenth-century work, generally supposed to be ventilators in leaded windows, were found, with another piece of a different pattern. The patterns when perfect were  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches square, formed of two concentric circles, the middle of which was a quatrefoil, and the space between the rings was filled with radiating panels having cinquefoiled heads. (Fig. 8.) On two of the fragments the original fixing remained.

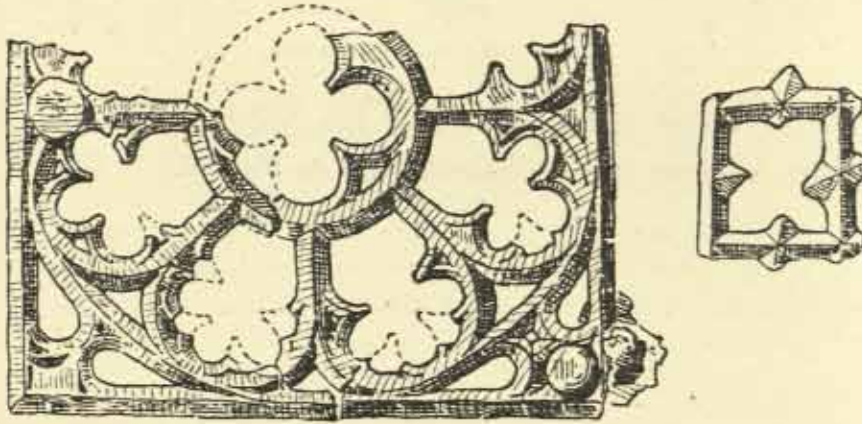


Fig. 8. Fragments of pierced lead panels found at Stanley Abbey. (4.)

It consisted of a rivet with rounded head, and a small piece of the material to which it was fixed, apparently a thin sheet of iron. This goes against the supposition that these lead panels, which have been found in other places, were ventilating quarries in lead glazing, since iron could not have occurred in that position.

A fragment of leading from a painted window was found, which shows that the monks of Stanley as elsewhere had before the Suppression broken the rule against coloured glass.

Another object found was a bronze brooch (Fig. 9) consisting of a ring  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter, having a pointed tongue notched where it rested on the ring and bossed at the end where it is fastened to the ring by a hook.

A few iron nails, much corroded, were found, and also a door key  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches in length, and two smaller ones.

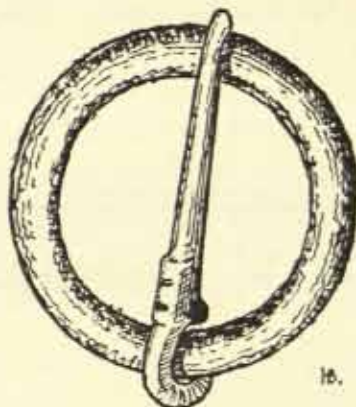


Fig. 9. Bronze buckle found at Stanley Abbey. (†.)

These objects, with a shilling of Queen Elizabeth and the usual halfpenny and tobacco pipe, were the only curiosities found on the site.



